

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached "Replacement Sheet(s)" of drawings include(s) changes to Figure(s) 4, 5, 13 and 14. The attached "Replacement Sheet(s)," which include(s) Figure(s) 4, 5, 13 and 14, replace(s) the original sheet(s) including Figure(s) 4, 5, 13 and 14.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s)

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

DRAWINGS

Replacement drawings for Figs. 4, 5, 13 and 14 are submitted herewith to address the objection raised by the Examiner.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 15-20 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112 as being indefinite.

Applicant has amended the Specification and drawings to reflect the terminology used in the claims. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully solicited.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 15-16 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102 as being anticipated by Eichberger et al. (US 5,815,934). Claim 15 has been amended to incorporate the recitation from dependent Claim 17. In particular, Claim 15 expressly recites that the conduit 42 directs airflow from the fan into the exhaust passage 42A at a location at or below the expulsion aperture 52 through which debris is expelled from the recess 50. To the contrary, in Eichberger, airflow from the conduit 30 is directed through opening 29 into the tubular-shaped, horizontally oriented exhaust passage 25 at a location above the opening 28 through which cutting debris is expelled from recess 18. Moreover, Claim 15 further recites that the airflow and entrained debris flowing through


said exhaust passage are directed in a substantially upward direction. The airflow from conduit 30 in Eichberger flows substantially in a horizontal direction through exhaust passage 25, because the opening 29 from the conduit 30 is located at the top of the exhaust passage 25 (Fig. 3).

Consequently, because the airflow from the conduit 42 in the present invention is injected into exhaust passage 42A at a location at or below the expulsion aperture 52, the movement of debris ejected from the recess 50 by the cutting action, which is also in the upward direction, is enhanced. Thus, the expulsion of cutting debris from the body of the tool in the present invention is greatly improved as compared to the prior art Eichberger structure.

Accordingly, Claims 15, 16 and 18-20 are believed to define patentable subject matter and are therefore in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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